

committee of two might reach an agreement in time for the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Bronx.

## RECTIFYING HIS FRONTIER

To assuage the tantrums of the maddest of months and to satirize pleasantly certain recent transactions in land-grabbing, Borough President Lyons of the Bronx claims that Marble Hill, that curious outpost of Manhattan, should be added to his borough. North, south and east it is surrounded by the Bronx. To the south is the Harlem Ship Canal, connecting the Harlem and the Hudson. From the standpoint of symmetrical geography it ought to be part of the Bronx. Mr. Lyons finds in the Administrative Code a section defining the boundaries of a certain local improvement district the phrase, "to the Spuyten Duyvil Creek." That creek has been filled up. Therefore Marble Hill belongs to the Bronx.

Jocosely remembering many disputed frontiers, Mr. Lyons says that "the natural physical line of division should be the Harlem Ship Canal." These natural boundaries have often been amusing. He makes his doubly so. They are natural because they are artificial land and water. He omits the ritual expression, "ethnological lines." He does bring in the name-saint of his region, Jonas Bronck. The tercentenary of the Bronx comes this year. With admirable gravity Mr. Lyons pictures Jonas as "looking down from his heavenly home," joyous and grateful if the Marble Hillers have become Bronx-ites.

But why does Mr. Lyons leave out ethnography? It is no luxury, it is a necessary in these controversies. Who was Jonas Bronck? He used to be set down as either "a Swede or a Dane." If we may trust to names, Marble Hill was Dutch historically. What else do such street names as Adrian, Jacobus, Corlear, Leyden mean? Mr. Lyons forgets or scorns to use the military argument. On Marble Hill Fort Prince Charles used to stand, "commanding Kings Bridge." Should the Bronx stand for that? Marble Hill "in bondage" to Manhattan is excellent fooling. President Isaacs of Manhattan throws the ball back gayly by consenting to a plebiscite. At the same time he shows the proper loyalty by doubting if "anybody would want to give up Manhattan for the Bronx."

We move that this momentous dispute be referred to Mr. Henry Curran and Mr. Robert Moses. So great a matter should not be settled in haste. This